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A Flamboyant Fighter – Yuvraj Singh

Yuvraj Singh, a famous name in the world of cricket. He is such a kind of person and a sportsman who does not require introduction. Cricket fans see him as a stylish player who hits the ball with brutality, but there is a soft-hearted, gentle person somewhere deep inside. One of his childhood neighboring friend was my colleague at that time. After 20 years down the line he is my closest friend. From him only, I come to know about Yuvraj and his life. According to him, Yuvi is a great friend and a nice human being. Great friend, because he is the one who takes initiative to collect all the yesteryear friends and meet at one place and nostalgic time together. Nice human being, because he participates in many charitable events charging no money. He also runs a charity foundation, which provides aid and economic support who are fighting life-threatening diseases, mainly cancer.

We, as spectators, are just enthralled with his success and mesmerized with the style he is leading his life. I am sure most of the fans of the sport, cricket, are unaware of those facts he has gone through his life. Though he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but then he still had to break the chicken peas with his nose to taste the success he is enjoying.

EARLY YEARS

His father also was cricket player but he could not get the success he longed for. So his dream was to make his son a successful player. To achieve this dream, he made Yuvraj to practice hard at the age of 11. His father made sure he wake up at 3 in the morning even before the morning wakes up. That was the kind of life he was leading when most of the children enjoy a sedentary life. Waking up early before the dawn breaks, warming up, exercising hard, undertaking weight training, learning and practicing cricket technique was the daily routine for years.

INTERNATIONAL CAREER AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

It has been quite a while now since he wore the national CAP and played international cricket, however, when he played he dominated the world cricket. When was the member of the U19 Cricket World Cup, India won the Cup. He was awarded the Man of the Tournament for his all-round performance.

He was again awarded the Man of the tournament when India won first ever T20 World Cup played. It was the new format and required a lot of strength, stamina and determination to play in this format. Contemporary biggies withdrew from playing in T20 International World Cup, likes of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguli, Rahul Dravid and Zaheer Khan. There was a hardly any hop in the minds of experienced cricket experts that India could even reach finals. Against all odds, India won the very first T20 World Cup in 2007. It was Yuvraj Singh's dominating performance that helped clinch the series. He was again awarded the Player of the Tournament. No one could ever forget his six sixes in an over who watched this once in a lifetime episode. He also holds the record for hitting fastest 50 in just 12 balls in the same match.

This became possible only because of the mental strength and determination of Yuvraj Singh. In a previous one series, an English batsman had hit fives sixes in his over. It was the final over of the match. I think this incident hurt him badly and made him sad, but it was the Yuvraj Singh who never breaks. Hard and tough situations make him much harder and stronger.

2011 was again proved the luckiest year for him. India won the World cup after 28 years. Yuvraj was again selected as the Player of the Tournament. 2011 World Cup was supposed to be the last World Cup for Sachin Tendulkar and the players then wanted to give him tribute in a big way. What else than winning a World Cup could been the way to tribute the player of the century.

THE FIGHER

The same year (2011) Yuvraj was diagnosed with a lung cancer. As soon as the news broke in the media each and every fan of his and the sport was stunned and heartbroken. No one could believe this unpleasant, unwelcomed and distressing news. Yes the news was true and the truth was that it was Yuvraj Singh. If it was not Yuvraj Singh, this dreaded and deadly disease had broken him from inside and outside both, but as it was Yuvraj Singh, the deadly disease lost the battle and our own Yuvraj won. Such was the Yuvraj's strength and temperament.

After a few months of treatment and rest, he was in the gym. He started all over again, taking training slowly and steadily and improving his health. His perseverance, stick-to-itiveness, dedication, and diligence proved fruitful and he was again in the playing eleven of national

team. Whenever he is dropped from the team, he bounces back with a bang. That is what Yuvraj Singh is.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

He was bestowed Arjuna Award, the second highest Sports Award by the Govt. of India. He was also awarded with the Padma Shri Award.

He holds the record for the fastest 50 in T20 International. He also holds the record for hitting six sixes in an over in T20 International, that too in a World Cup. Till Date, he remains the highest bid (for whopping 16 crore) for an IPL tournament.

CONCLUSION: Friends, family members or the people around Yuvraj Singh are lucky. They get inspiration, motivation and enthusiasm by the persona Yuvraj Singh possess. Those who get depressed with the tough and hard times in life they definitely can read about his fighting spirit, his personality. His life history and his not-to-give-up attitude will motivate the aspiring sportspersons and common people. Future sportsmen who get depressed with the politics around them for not being selected in the team in any sport can learn from Yuvraj's mental strength and turn the corner. If one decides to achieve something in life there's nothing in the world which can stop him to acquire. Although he is not playing international cricket, I am sure his life and his achievements will inspire the generations.

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